

THE HISTORICAL INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION

LOCATION : HIC is located in Vault 1E41A, CIA Headquarters. It functions administratively under the Office of Central Reference, and its personnel are slotted in the Office of the Chief, Library Services Division, OCR.

REPUTATION : HIC has been mentioned frequently in the public and professional prints. The evaluation ranges from "the finest library of overt intelligence materials in the world," to "resembling nothing so much as a large used-book store on the seedier side of Manhattan."

ACCESS : HIC is available for use by all personnel with Staff or Staff-access CIA building badges, including intelligence community personnel with that access. Its materials are available for loan to other community elements and are made available from time to time to authorized foreign liaison.

HISTORY : HIC was established by [] January 1956. The officer responsible for its operations was designated a Special Assistant to the DD/I until 25 August 1959, when the designation was changed to Curator, Historical Intelligence, and the function was transferred to the Office of Central Reference.

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As conceived by DCI Dulles, HIC would be a collection of books and periodicals on all aspects of intelligence, beginning with the earliest written accounts of intelligence operations and continuing to the present. He saw it as a reservoir of knowledge recording both the "how to" and the "how it was done" of the intelligence profession. He believed the literature contained sufficient precedents upon which professional intelligence officers could draw, much as an attorney draws upon both old and new law volumes. He saw the usefulness of such materials for training purposes, and hoped the existence of such a collection would imbue young intelligence officers with the traditions of a uniquely-American intelligence service.

In time, other purposes have evolved, as have the duties of the Curator who exploits the Collection. Classified materials, training manuals, and extensive clipping and cable holdings dealing with intelligence services, major intelligence operations and cases, etc., have been added to the Collection. HIC now has over [] catalogued items, and has

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served as a model for similar collections by foreign intelligence services and that recently established by Georgetown University.

THE STAFF : "Would you please have one of your staff research this," is a familiar requirement from senior officials. In fact, the HIC staff consists of two persons, a Curator who manages and exploits the Collection, and an Assistant to the Curator who conducts the day-to-day operations of the Collection and assists in servicing research requirements.

THE CURATOR : The Curator of HIC is a professional intelligence officer. He is not necessarily a librarian, although he manages a specialized library; nor, need he be an historian in the strictest sense, although he seeks out the past in the literature of intelligence to meet current needs. He must have a bit of both of these, but of greater importance is a degree of experience in the craft with which he works. Where most analytical and research positions involve abstraction from actual personal experience, the Curator is required to meld such personal knowledge and institutional memory with those of contemporaries in the conscious reconstruction of events using books, documents, press clippings and the like. The Curator must be prepared to perform a wide variety of research tasks for senior constituent groups and have a positive desire to assist Agency officers in performing successful research in the Collection. His time schedules and priorities are usually established by his consumers, although he works with a high degree of independence and has direct control over how the product is developed and presented to the consumer.

CONSUMERS : It is an anomaly that although HIC is "rationed and quartered" in the DD/I, that Directorate is only a minor customer in its operation. Some 90% of its activities are in support of the clandestine services and the offices of the DCI and DDCI. The largest portion of the remaining percentage is support to the Office of Security regarding foreign and domestic espionage cases. Its product is delivered directly to the consumer and is not subject to normal DD/I review and release procedures, a result of compartmentalization of the consumers and the frequent sensitivity of the information sought for operational application.

Examples of other major functions are attached.

OTHER MAJOR SUPPORT FUNCTIONS

HIC scans a large number of U.S. and foreign publications for articles on intelligence. Senior officials and concerned elements are notified of those reflecting compromise or having adverse impact on the Agency. Other materials meeting standing requirements are provided to requesters. All are categorized and filed in HIC for later recovery.

HIC reviews various bibliographic and selection guides for information on forthcoming books on intelligence and makes appropriate notification to senior officials and concerned elements at that time, and provides copies of the actual book or article upon receipt. Recommendations are made for possible review of important works in Studies in Intelligence. HIC is also called upon when necessary in damage assessment preparation.

HIC guides Agency and Community officers in the exploitation of the Collection, with recommendations as to suitable and unsuitable works addressing the problem being studied, research methods which may be productive, etc. Assistance to Career Trainees on their initial desk assignments has received enthusiastic and favorable feed-back.

HIC assists FOIA/PA and declassification officers in research of the public domain, prior disclosure and Executive Disclosure status of specific items of contested information. It also performs reviews as required for the Publication Review Board.

HIC conducts research for senior-level customers and others as directed. The product may be used for publication, public and congressional responses, speeches, public affairs purposes, etc. This ranges from research summaries to providing case or precedent examples and anecdotes for inclusion in speeches and reports; from providing HIC-prepared "shelf items" on regularly asked questions to the writing of "first chapters" (i.e. historical perspective) for Agency training pamphlets.

HIC recommends and provides in many languages, materials to be used for training and operational purposes.

HIC conducts liaison with other governmental and sometimes non-governmental, historical elements to seek answers to official questions. It fields questions from such elements in return.

CIA HISTORICAL INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION

The CIA Historical Intelligence Collection was created at the direction of DCI Allen W. Dulles on 31 January 1956. Dr. Walter L. Pforzheimer, the former Legislative Counsel, was appointed as a Special Assistant to the DD/I to serve as an advisor on the establishment of the Collection. [redacted]

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On 25 August 1959, the Historical Intelligence Collection was transferred to the Office of Central Reference and its principle intelligence officer was designated Curator, Historical Intelligence. [redacted]

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Responsibilities of the Curator were defined and expanded 1 November 1963. [redacted]

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Responsibilities of the Historical Intelligence Collection to support the Agency and Intelligence Community components regarding certain records holdings were defined 28 August 1975.
(Fed. Reg., Vol. 40, No. 168)

The present Curator, Historical Intelligence, [redacted]
[redacted] assumed the position on 15 June 1974.

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